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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODSEXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

NAME: FOERTSCH, Hermann Otto Edward

TITLE: General, a.D.
Hqs

ALIAS: OVIERSEN, Hermann

SCA 131445
28 Feb 55

V-

CRYPTONYM:

BORN: 4 Apr 1895 ; Drahnow, Kreis Deutschkrone RELIGION: Evangelisch
(day, month, year, city/Prov.)

RESIDENCE: Muenchen 19 , Prinzenstr 3 / 0
(city-suburb/Prov. Street #/floor) TEL. # 6 31 63

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION:

Height: 6'1" (185 cm) Weight: Eyes: blue Hair: drkblond; reced
Face-shape: Complexion: dark Teeth: hair-lin
Scars: Prominent/ident. features: nervous facial twitch; beak nose Build: badly round-
shoulder

PARENTS: FOERTSCH, Friedrich: Gutverwalter und Kgl. Layr. Major der Idw. a. D.
Leiter Zeigstelle Nuremberg der bayr. Landessiedlung,
Nuremberg. Died 26 Apr 1939.

nee LANDT, Bertha: died 28 Oct 1918, Gr. Tarpers bei Graudenz

SPOUSE: nee MARY, Hildegard: b. 20 Oct 1900, daughter of Arthur MARY, Kolberg
Married 28 Mar 1924 in Kolberg

CHILDREN: Sonst. Hansl (Hans?) Juergen: b. 31 Jan 1935 in Berlin-Dahlem

Joachim: b. 15 Mar 1928 in Berlin

Volker: b. 30 Jun or 2 Jul 1934 in Berlin. ZIPPER employed.

OTHER RELATIVES

ZIPPER EMPLOYMENT

CODE: 1942 Payroll # 4076 Emergency # Position: Chief 375
Organization: 375 (ex-60) (PP/PW Politics
Cover Unit: Industrial Research Unit (1951) Reports Section

DOCUMENTATION

MOLIA TTD # 50111 issued Heidelberg 13 Dec 48, valid to 13 Dec 49 for Austria & Swi
KE (true) # 5-154 421

KIC (alias)

Pistol Permit

11th Army E Letter issued 29 Jul 1953 in Munich

ZIPPER ID Card

ZIPPER E Card

REFERENCES

MOLA-2886, 20 Jul 50 (Pers. Sketch)	MOLA-12672, 12752, 17 Feb 52 (im,req)	
MOLA-2864, 3 Aug 50	MOLA-23686 (att) 27 Oct 50	MOLA-6128 (att) 14 Apr 51
MOLA-2954, 10 Aug 50	MOLA-4327, 30 Oct 50	MOLA-6679, 31 May 51
MOLA-3046, 17 Aug 50	MOLA-3857, 1 Nov 50	MOLA-7582, 30 Jul 51
PULL-941, 17 Aug 50	MOLA-3882, 2 Nov 50	MOLW-12688, 7 Feb 52
PULL-953, 22 Aug 50	MOLA-3907, 3 Nov 50	MOLA-10552 & 10553, 28 Feb 52
MOLA-3112, 23 Aug 50	MOLA-24299, 16 Nov 50	EOQA-1716, 4 Nov 52
FRAN-2210, 30 Aug 50	MOLA-4494, 20 Dec 50	EOQA-12336, 17 Mar 53
MOLA-3274 (att), 7 Sep 50	MOLA-4795, 15 Jan 51	EOGLA-3035, 31 Mar 53
MOLA-3363, 15 Sep 50		

EGLA-3303, 17 Apr 53
EGLA-7444 & 7445, 2 Feb 54

EGLA-8117, 15 Mar 54
EGQW-1526, 28 Oct 52 (German Army doss.)

EDUCATION:

1902-04, Paedagogium Ostrau
1904-13, Gymnasium Schneidemuehl

MILITARY:

1913: Mar, entered Inf. R. 175
Nov, Fahnrich (officer candidate)
1914: Aug, Leutnant
1917: Dec, Oberleutnant
1920: May, Inf. R. 110
Oct, Inf. R. 17
1921: Oct, Reit. R. 8
1922: Nov, Inf. R. 17
Sep, Art. R. 5
1926: Feb, Hauptmann (Captain)
ca 1927 -
1944, 20 May, member German General Staff
1928: Feb, Rittmeister (Captain, Cavalry)
Oct, Reichswehrministerium
1930s Mar, Inf. R. 17
1932: Aug, Reichswehrministerium. Gruppenchef of the Press in the Wehrmachtsabteilung.
Granted unofficial title of Major in Reichswehrministerium.
Major
1933: May, Kommandeur IV/Inf. R. 4
Oct, Oberstleutnant (Lt. Col.)
commanded to Kriegssakademie
1936: Jan, Kommandeur 1/Inf. R. 4
Oct, Oberst (Colonel)
1938: Jun, Military Attaché in German Embassy (Gesandtschaften) in Stockholm, Oslo and Copenhagen.
Aug, published book: Kriegskunst Heute und Morgen
22 Jun -
3 Jul, Subject, 1st Generalstabsoffizier of the Kriegssakademie, commanded to staff command of Kgl. Bulgarian Kriegssakademie in Sofia. Took part in Gelaendebesprechungen (map maneuvers) of Bulgarian Kriegssakademie.
Beginning of war to
1939: Oct, Chef Gen.St. Stv. (Acting) Gen. Kdo. 8 Armeekorps
Oct, -
1940: Sep, Chef Gen.St. 26th Armeekorps
Sep-Oct, Fuehrer Reserve OKH
Oct-
1941: May, Kommandeur der Gen.St. Lehrgaenge (Kr. Av.)
1941t May-
1942: Dec, A.O.K. 12 (Chef)

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cont'd pg 3

MILITARY: (cont'd)

1942: Feb, Generalmajor
1943: Jan, Generalleutnant
Jan-Aug, Chef des Gen. Stabes O.B. Sudost (H.Gr. E)
Aug-
1944: Mar, Oberdo. H.Gr. F (Chef)
Mar-Apr, Fuehrer Reserve OKH (D.R.W.Mr. III)
Jun-Aug, Kommandeur 21 Inf. Division
Aug-Oct, m.d.F.d.X Armeekorps
Nov, General der Infanterie
Nov-Dec, Kommandeur Gen. X Armeekorps
CG First Army (West) (last known appointment)
1945: May, PW (West)
1946: Jul, Dachau

Cleared of war criminal charges at Nuremberg and of Nazi charges by the Spruchkammer in Bavaria.

DECORATIONS:

1940: May, Spange zum Eisernen Kreuz, 2 Class
Spange zum Eisernen Kreuz, 1 Class
1943: Oct, Deutsches Kreuz in Gold
1944: Aug, Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes

Military Assessments (Summary):

Officer with Kriegsschulausbildung. Comprehensive education and high military knowledge and ability. Striking personality. Intellectually superior, enthusiastic, warm-hearted. Independent mind which draws from rich knowledge. Great power for work. Good knowledge of human nature. Excellent leader and teacher. Very special ability in the written and spoken word.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT:

1951, Head of Division of Military Science in German Historical Institute for the Study of the National Socialist Era, Muenchen (Deutsches Institut fuer Geschichte der Nationalsozialistischer Zeit).
1952, principal employee of Institute for Contemporary History, Muenchen.

INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES:

ZIPPER:

1949, As SVIERSEN, Hermann, ROD as member of ZIPPER staff assigned to Evaluation Section (15). (MOA-10552)
1950, Very Important Special Connection. Author of ZIPPER pamphlet, Orientierung (world events review). ZIPPER contact to the Press. ZIPPER staff contact to Subject is JOHN von FREYEND, Ernst. Earns DM 540 monthly. Put on Fayroll Overhead, 1 Apr 50. Member of Arbeitstab, committee of Genlt. KUSSINGER, Adolf (Staff), Genlt. SPEIDEL, Hans (Spec. Conn.) and Subject working on remili-

ZIPPER: (cont'd)

terization. Later, member of Expertenausschuss, committee of Generals working on remilitarization. (MGLA-3882, et.al.)
1952: 1 Oct, Became Chief of psychological warfare planning group (Sec. 60)
1954, Continues as head of Sec. 375 (ex-60), PP & PW Political Reports and as author of Orientierung. (Has propensity toward writing "Masty little anti-U.S. digs in Orientierung.) (thru Marvin A. Cabot)

CHARACTER EVALUATIONS:

"One of the smartest, politically and militarily most experienced personalities. Wide experiences in organizational as well as command work. His brain is seldom equalled." (Eval. by Gen'l. GEHLEN, MOKA-23686)

"Following Hitler's accession to power and the conclusion by Hitler and Blomberg of the agreement under which Hitler recognized the Wehrmacht as the sole and exclusive armed body of the German nation, Subject distinguished himself by a series of articles and lectures rationalizing the relationship between the Wehrmacht and the NSDAP and hailing Hitler as the saviour of the Wehrmacht and of German military tradition....Subject is now (1950) an intelligent and articulate but also rather bitter and beaten aging man....His mind is first rate, but there is not much spirit behind it....His bitterness does not express itself in irascibility or in vindictiveness or defeatism. It is obviously tempered by his intelligence, which is extraordinary, and by his curiosity and his analytical habits." (MGLA-2686)

Comment: Subject possesses a brilliant mind; is well-read scholar in field of political philosophy and has combined a military career with that of an opportunist and prolific writer. It is felt that Subject's experiences have left him embittered, cynical and chronically pessimistic. Not considered by [] as an individual who will play, in the future, a decisive role of any kind. (EGLA-8117)

RECORD OF RESIDENCE:

1950, Schloss Heinersreuth bei Enschenreuth-Kulmbach, Oberfranken
(estate of Freiherr Baron von LERCHENFELD)
1951, Muenchen 22, Reithoferstr 29
1953-54, Listed in Muenchen City and Telephone Directories at:
Muenchen 19, Prinzenstr 3 / 0
Tel: 6-31-63

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